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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 17, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, source of knowledge and wisdom, give us Your truth. Open our eyes to see Your truth. Strengthen our hearts to face Your truth. Illuminate our spirits to understand Your truth. Fortify our minds that we will remember Your truth.

Give Your Senators today the determination to obey Your truth. Show them what to believe and what to do.

Lord, help us all to listen carefully to Your wise counsel and store up knowledge that transforms lives.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, our wonderful colleague from California, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, announced that she will retire at the end of her term.

I am careful not to throw the word "legend" around too often in this Chamber, as it truly befits so few, but DIANNE FEINSTEIN is precisely that. She is a legend.

She is a legend in California, where she shattered innumerable glass ceilings as the first woman Senator from the State. And we forget how, even 20,

30 years ago, the barriers which are still in front of women were even stronger, so it took a strong, tough, resolute woman to break them, and she did.

She is a legend here in the Senate. The longest serving woman Senator in U.S. history, she built a reputation as an expert legislator and a leader on so many issues—gun violence, the environment, women's rights, and so much more.

I first got to know DIANNE when she led the effort to pass the 1994 ban on assault weapons in the Senate. I led it in the House. I have always been amazed by the sheer depth of her knowledge on the issues and how careful she is about learning all of the facts before she goes forward and then her seemingly innate ability to convince people on both sides of the aisle to work together. That is why her list of accomplishments is so long—the assault weapons ban, protecting oversight authority during the investigation into U.S. torture, championing the Violence Against Women Act. The list goes on and on and on.

But perhaps her greatest legacy is how she blazed a trail for women and girls everywhere. Today, there are 25 women serving in this Chamber. There are 25 women serving in this Chamber, all of whom stand on DIANNE's shoulders.

We are all very glad we have another year and a half with her to fight the good fight, and I know she will use that time to fiercely advocate for women's rights in all aspects of life and unwaveringly represent the people of California.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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